

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3043
INFO USDCO WASHDC
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 1109

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP, SY
SUBJECT: BEIRUT REGIONAL SEMINAR FOR FSL COMMERCIAL SPECIALISTS

REF: DEPT'S A-1569, 3/7/75

1. SUMMARY: EMBASSY PLEASED TO NOMINATE FSL BASHIR NOTAFGI FOR SUBJECT SEMINAR. WE NEED FURTHER INFORMATION ON READINGS AND REPORTING EXERCISES MENTIONED PAGE TWO REFAIR, AS NONE HAS ARRIVED HERE YET. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY STRONGLY WELCOMES SUBJECT PROGRAM AND NOMINATES FSL BASHIR NOTAFGI TO ATTEND SEMINAR IN BEIRUT MAY 5-9, 1975. INFO ON NOTAFGI REQUESTED RAFAIR AS FOLLOWS:

A. PRESENT ASSIGNMENT: HIRED BY EMBASSY ON JULY 1, 1974. ASSISTED SINGLE ECON/CML/POLITICAL OFFICER IN RESPONDING TO COMMERCIAL INQUIRIES AND WORKED ON INTENSIVE PREPARATIONS FOR US PARTICIPATION IN DAMASCUS INTERNATIONAL FAIR JULY/AUGUST 1974. THIS WORK INVOLVED HIM CLOSELY WITH USDOC EXHIBIT MANAGER AND BEIRUT RTDO AND COMMERCIAL STAFFS. NOTAFGI IS SOLE FSL COMMERCIAL/ECONOMIC ASSISTANT AT PRESENT UNDER SINGLE ECON/CML OFFICER. FSL SECRETARY ASSISTS BOTH WITH TYPING AND BASIC SECRETARIAL WORK. EMBASSY INTERVIEWING POTENTIAL CANDIDATES FOR FSL COMMERCIAL OR ECONOMIC SPECIALIST TO FILL SECOND AUTHORIZED POSITION, BUT DO NOT EXPECT TO MAKE FINAL CHOICE UNTIL END OF APRIL OR MAY AFTER ARRIVAL OF ECON/
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CML FSO DAVIS FROM PARIS. AS SINGLE

ECON/CML FSL, NOTAFGI WORKS ON ENTIRE RANGE OF COMMERCIAL WORK: WTDR'S (WE HAVE ONLY JUST RECOMMENCED THIS FUNCTION), TOP'S, IO'S SUPPORT OF VISITING TRADE MISSIONS AND AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN AND BANKERS, ETC. MR. NOTAFGI HAS ALSO HANDLED MAJOR LOAD OF ECONOMIC AND AID ENGLISH/ ARABIC WRITTEN AND ORAL TRANSLATION WORK; HE ACCOMPANIED SECRETARY BUTZ DURING THREE-DAY VISIT AND DID COMMENDABLE JOB OF TRANSLATING DURING OFFICIAL APPOINTMENTS, PUBLIC REMARKS, AND SOCIAL GATHERINGS.

B. PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE: LIBRAIRIE UNIVERSELLE, DAMASCUS, BOOK SALESMAN, 1953-54; USIS AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER, LIBRARIAN AND EXHIBITS SPECIALIST, 1954-67 (CENTER CLOSED WITH BREAK IN RELATIONS); DAMASCUS UNIVERSITY, ACCOUNTANT/ADMINISTRATION, FOREIGN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE DEPARTMENT, 1968-1974; EMBASSY ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL ASSISTANT, JULY 1974 TO PRESENT.

C. NEEDS: ENTIRE RANGE SUBJECTS TO BE COVERED IN SEMINAR (ENCLOSURE TO REPAIR). WHILE EXCELLENT IN TRANSLATING INTO ARABIC, WHICH VERY NECESSARY REQUIREMENT IN SYRIA, WOULD BENEFIT FROM EXPOSURE TO ANY PUBLISHED ARABIC MATERIAL PREPARED IN WASHINGTON OR OTHER POSTS WHICH CAN BE USED AS A GUIDE TO SPECIALIZED ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL CONCEPTS OR PHRASES.

3. RECOMMEND DEPT REQUEST CONCERNED POSTS TO HAVE FSL'S COMING TO SEMINAR BRING WITH THEM APPROPRIATE SAMPLES OF ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL MATERIAL PRODUCED IN ARABIC FOR RETENTION IN OUR EMBRYONIC COMMERCIAL LIBRARY. THIS WOULD WE BELIEVE HAVE GENERAL BENEFIT IN STANDARDIZING ARABIC IN US MIDDLE EASTERN ECON/COMMERCIAL EFFORT. MURPHY

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